

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10290 201552Z

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4848

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10290

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PFOR, IN
SUBJECT: LESSONS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

REF: STATE 168373

1. THE PRESIDENT'S MOST RECENT LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER DESAI RAISES THE POSSIBILITY OF AMERICANS GAINING FROM INDIA'S EXPERIENCE IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT. IN CASE THE GOI RESPONDS FAVORABLY TO THIS INITIATIVE, AS WOULD SEEM LIKELY, CAN WE HAVE MORE SPECIFIC INDICATIONS OF WHAT WASHINGTON HAS IN MIND? WHAT SORT OF TEAM OR TEAMS MIGHT COME TO INDIA? DO WE ENVISION A SERIES OF SEMINARS OR CONFERENCES? COULD THIS BE A SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL PROGRAM OR SOMEHOW OTHERWISE SET OFF FROM THE SENSITIVITIES OF BILATERAL AID?

2. IT MIGHT OF COURSE BE PREFERABLE AND AN INTERESTING INNOVATION FOR US TO PUT IT TO THE INDIANS TO CONCEIVE AND PROPOSE A PROGRAM THAT THEY THINK WOULD BE TO OUR BENEFIT. EVEN SO, IT WOULD HELP US IN THE EMBASSY TO HAVE SOME SENSE OF WHAT SORT OF FUNDING WE ARE PREPARED TO COMMITT, OVER WHAT PERIOD OF TIME, AND IN WHAT PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF INDIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT THERE EXISTS THE MOST CURIOSITY AT HOME.

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3. I AM ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE. MY SUBCOMMISSION EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER, MAKES ME SOMEWHAT LEERY OF OUR OPENING INITIATIVES WITHOUT SOME HARD PRELIMINARY THINKING ON QUESTIONS OF SCALE, DURATION, FOLLOW-UP, AND FUNDING.

GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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